

# **EXHIBIT D**

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

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ASHLEIGH ANGELO, et al,

Plaintiff,

v.

THOMSON INTERNATIONAL,

INCORPORATED, a California

Corporation; DOES ENTITIES 1-10,

Defendants.

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Case No.

DEMARQUEZ AUSTIN,

1:21-cv-01609-JLT-CDB

Plaintiff,

v.

THOMSON INTERNATIONAL,

INCORPORATED,

Defendant.

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1 VIDEOCONFERENCE DEPOSITION OF PERSON MOST KNOWLEDGABLE	1 A P P E A R A N C E S (Cont'd)
2 FOR THOMSON INTERNATIONAL INCORPORATED - JACK THOMSON	2 ON BEHALF OF DEFENDANTS EVERYPLATE AND WILLIS:
3 DATE: Monday, June 12, 2023	3 JOE GERI, ESQUIRE (by videoconference)
4 TIME: 1:09 p.m.	4 Tracey Lazarus Law Office/Zurich
5 LOCATION: Remote Proceeding	5 17901 Von Karman Avenue, Suite 300
6 Los Angeles, CA 90017	6 Irvine, CA 92614
7 OFFICIATED BY: Molly McCollm, Notary Public	7 joseph.geri@zurichna.com
8 JOB NO.: 5954274	8 (949) 726-7602
9	9
10	10 ON BEHALF OF DEFENDANT ONIONS 52 INCORPORATED:
11	11 NACE NAUMOSKI, ESQUIRE (by videoconference)
12	12 Stewart Smith
13	13 76 E Euclid Avenue
14	14 Haddonfield, NJ 08033
15	15 nnaumoski@stewartsmithlaw.com
16	16 (484) 344-5330
17	17
18	18
19	19
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25	25
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1 A P P E A R A N C E S	1 I N D E X
2 ON BEHALF OF PLAINTIFFS ASHLEIGH ANGELO ET AL:	2 EXAMINATION: PAGE
3 JENNY SCHELL, ESQUIRE (by videoconference)	3 By Ms. Schell 10
4 Marler Clark LLP	4 By Mr. Coyle 122
5 1012 First Avenue, Fifth Floor	5 By Mr. Naumoski 137
6 Seattle, WA 98104	6 By Mr. Geri 138
7 jschell@marlerclark.com	7 By Ms. Schell 157
8 (206) 346-1876	8 By Mr. Naumoski 161
9	9
10 DAVID COYLE, ESQUIRE (by videoconference)	10 E X H I B I T S
11 Pritzker Hageman, P.A.	11 NO. DESCRIPTION PAGE
12 100 University Avenue SE	12 Exhibit 1 Notice of Deposition 10
13 Minneapolis, MN 55414	13 Exhibit 2 Willis Notice 25
14 dcoyle@pritzkerlaw.com	14 Exhibit 3 Hanley Notice 25
15 (612) 338-0202	15 Exhibit 4 Outgoing Shipments 25
16	16 Exhibit 5 Equipment Emails 35
17 ON BEHALF OF DEFENDANT THOMSON INTERNATIONAL	17 Exhibit 6 Machinery Email 38
18 INCORPORATED:	18 Exhibit 7 Master Sanitation SOP 40
19 ROBERT SALLANDER, ESQUIRE (by videoconference)	19 Exhibit 8 Daily Cleaning Logs 43
20 Greenan Pepper Sallander & Lally LLP	20 Exhibit 9 GAPs Table of Contents 45
21 P.O. Box 10	21 Exhibit 10 Water Sampling SOP 50
22 San Ramon, CA 94583	22 Exhibit 11 Gladstone E and W 2020 Audit 52
23 rsallander@gpsllp.com	23 Exhibit 12 Ranch 3 2020 Audit 56
24 (925) 866-1000	24 Exhibit 13 Water Analysis Test 64
25	25 Exhibit 16 FDA Discussion Points 101
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<p>1 A No.</p> <p>2 Q And why not?</p> <p>3 MR. SALLANDER: Objection --</p> <p>4 A Because after the extensive --</p> <p>5 MR. SALLANDER: Hang on, Jack.</p> <p>6 Objection. Attorney client privilege.</p> <p>7 THE WITNESS: So do I answer or not?</p> <p>8 MR. SALLANDER: Well, don't disclose any</p> <p>9 communications you had with lawyers. If you can respond</p> <p>10 to her based on reasons other than communicating to you</p> <p>11 from your lawyers, go ahead.</p> <p>12 THE WITNESS: Well, because after we went</p> <p>13 through an extensive investigation with the FDA and they</p> <p>14 weren't able to find any sources of the outbreak strain</p> <p>15 on any of our plant and facility or fields, we didn't</p> <p>16 feel the need to do our own root cause analysis.</p> <p>17 BY MS. SCHELL:</p> <p>18 Q But the FDA didn't conduct its root cause</p> <p>19 investigation until August; right?</p> <p>20 A I believe so.</p> <p>21 Q So my question is why did Thomson not conduct</p> <p>22 a root cause analysis in live time when they found out</p> <p>23 that there was an outbreak occurring and that they were</p> <p>24 ostensibly the source?</p> <p>25 A Because FDA was investigating it and there</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 98</p>	<p>1 Q That's fine. Okay. But July? Just</p> <p>2 to -- sometime in July?</p> <p>3 A Yes.</p> <p>4 Q What did Thomson do to prepare for the FDA's</p> <p>5 inspection?</p> <p>6 A Nothing more than tell staff they weren't</p> <p>7 allowed to come in.</p> <p>8 Q Okay. Because the FDA had notified Thomson</p> <p>9 when it was going to be there; right? It wasn't a</p> <p>10 surprise investigation?</p> <p>11 A They notified us. Yes. That's correct.</p> <p>12 Q Did Thomson clean or --</p> <p>13 A -- any other staff -- they didn't want any</p> <p>14 other staff numbers on site during the investigation.</p> <p>15 Q Did Thomson clean any part of the packing</p> <p>16 house facility or sanitized it with any sort of</p> <p>17 chemicals prior to the FDA's arrival?</p> <p>18 A No.</p> <p>19 Q Didn't use any bleach or anything?</p> <p>20 A No.</p> <p>21 Q How about the field packing equipment?</p> <p>22 A The field packing equipment was already gone.</p> <p>23 We had stopped using it several weeks beforehand.</p> <p>24 Q Okay. So Thomson did no sanitizing or</p> <p>25 cleaning of its facilities at all prior to the FDA</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 100</p>
<p>1 wasn't any reason that -- or we weren't -- they wouldn't</p> <p>2 let anyone else be on the facility or the ranches or</p> <p>3 anywhere around any operations.</p> <p>4 Q Were you present for the FDA investigation in</p> <p>5 August and later months at Thomson's facilities?</p> <p>6 A Yes.</p> <p>7 Q Did you feel anything about their</p> <p>8 investigation was faulty or lacking?</p> <p>9 A No.</p> <p>10 Q Did you feel anything about their</p> <p>11 investigation was incorrect or inaccurate?</p> <p>12 A No.</p> <p>13 Q And we had just spoken about how the FDA</p> <p>14 didn't come do their root cause investigation until -- I</p> <p>15 think it was the end of August. When would the last</p> <p>16 outgoing onions have left Thomson's packing house?</p> <p>17 A Seems like it would have been the morning of</p> <p>18 the 27th because immediately after the conference call</p> <p>19 with FDA and CDC and CFIA, I walked out of my office and</p> <p>20 told staff to stop everything and unload the trucks that</p> <p>21 were being loaded.</p> <p>22 Q That would be July 27th?</p> <p>23 A I believe that was the date of the conference</p> <p>24 call. I can't remember exactly. I mean, I can look</p> <p>25 that up, but --</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 99</p>	<p>1 arriving for its inspection?</p> <p>2 A No.</p> <p>3 Q I didn't -- sorry. I didn't hear that.</p> <p>4 A No.</p> <p>5 Q Okay. Did you review any documentation prior</p> <p>6 to the FDA's inspection happening?</p> <p>7 A The only information I reviewed was the</p> <p>8 information they requested on the phone and/or in</p> <p>9 contact with them.</p> <p>10 Q Okay.</p> <p>11 A Just every --</p> <p>12 Q So anything they had asked you to obtain,</p> <p>13 obviously, you reviewed first?</p> <p>14 A Correct. Correct.</p> <p>15 Q All right. I'm going to do another exhibit</p> <p>16 here. Actually, I think this is the one that I</p> <p>17 erroneously submitted. So if you want to go to Exhibit</p> <p>18 16, we'll jump back to that one. I had uploaded it by</p> <p>19 accident. Sixteen. Let me know when you're there.</p> <p>20 (Exhibit 16 was marked for</p> <p>21 identification.)</p> <p>22 A It's open.</p> <p>23 Q Do you recognize this document?</p> <p>24 A Yes.</p> <p>25 Q Can you tell me what it is?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 101</p>

<p>1 A It is FDA discussion points from Thomson</p> <p>2 International inspection.</p> <p>3 Q Were you provided this document by the FDA?</p> <p>4 A Yes.</p> <p>5 Q Okay. What does this document contain? Just,</p> <p>6 you know, summarize.</p> <p>7 A Discussion points that they made regarding our</p> <p>8 packing facility post inspection.</p> <p>9 Q So is this things that they observed while</p> <p>10 onsite?</p> <p>11 A Yes.</p> <p>12 Q Did they talk to you about each of these</p> <p>13 things independently?</p> <p>14 A Yes. I spoke with the lead investigator.</p> <p>15 Q Okay. And did Thomson prepare any kind of</p> <p>16 response to these talking points?</p> <p>17 A Yes. I believe we did.</p> <p>18 Q Would that be written or just verbal?</p> <p>19 A I believe it was via email.</p> <p>20 Q That you then sent to the FDA?</p> <p>21 A Yes.</p> <p>22 Q Okay. I'll spare you the walkthrough on each</p> <p>23 of these points, and there are 12 of them. I'll just</p> <p>24 have you zoom down to the last line here, and if you</p> <p>25 want to read that last line next to my highlighted mark.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 102</p>	<p>1 BY MS. SCHELL:</p> <p>2 Q Okay. So I'm going to talk a little bit about</p> <p>3 the outbreak investigation. Do you know what whole</p> <p>4 genome sequencing is?</p> <p>5 A I do now. Yes.</p> <p>6 Q Can you tell me about it? What is it?</p> <p>7 A It relates to sequencing the genes of DNA and</p> <p>8 linking them -- manner how they are similar.</p> <p>9 Q Okay. So it's a technology that allows</p> <p>10 scientists to map the genome of bacteria isolated from</p> <p>11 people's clinical samples; right?</p> <p>12 A That's the proper definition.</p> <p>13 Q Yeah. So do you understand that public health</p> <p>14 entities across the country then compare the whole</p> <p>15 genome sequences from each sample with other samples?</p> <p>16 A I'm aware of that now. Yes.</p> <p>17 Q And then when those whole genome sequences</p> <p>18 differ only slightly -- for example, by less than six</p> <p>19 alleles -- scientists conclude that those clinical</p> <p>20 isolates match. Do you understand that?</p> <p>21 A Yes.</p> <p>22 Q And when clinical isolates match, that's a</p> <p>23 strong indication that those people all developed their</p> <p>24 illnesses from the same source of bacteria. Do you</p> <p>25 understand that?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 104</p>
<p>1 A Yeah. "President Jack Thomson made no</p> <p>2 objections to these discussion items, promised</p> <p>3 corrections, and stated that he will respond in writing</p> <p>4 to FDA compliance with more detail."</p> <p>5 Q So I interpret that last line to mean you</p> <p>6 understand what each of these 12 points were and you</p> <p>7 didn't disagree with any of them; is that accurate?</p> <p>8 A Yes.</p> <p>9 Q So do you agree that each of these conditions</p> <p>10 existed as observed by the FDA on Thomson's premises at</p> <p>11 the time of the FDA's investigation?</p> <p>12 A Yes.</p> <p>13 Q Do you agree that each of these conditions</p> <p>14 noted in this document are food safety concerns or</p> <p>15 present food safety concerns?</p> <p>16 A Yes.</p> <p>17 MS. SCHELL: Okay. I want to talk a</p> <p>18 little bit about the outbreak. Not sure -- should we</p> <p>19 take a break?</p> <p>20 Molly, do you need a break? This is my</p> <p>21 last section. I don't know that it's going to be a</p> <p>22 whole lot longer, but I want to be --</p> <p>23 THE OFFICER: Yeah. Let's keep going.</p> <p>24 MS. SCHELL: Keep going? Okay.</p> <p>25 //</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 103</p>	<p>1 A Yes.</p> <p>2 Q Okay. I'll do another exhibit here. Okay.</p> <p>3 I've put up Exhibit 22. Let me know when you're there.</p> <p>4 (Exhibit 22 was marked for</p> <p>5 identification.)</p> <p>6 A Okay.</p> <p>7 Q Have you ever seen this document before?</p> <p>8 A I've seen a lot of documents. I can't be</p> <p>9 specific to this one as likely I have. I don't know for</p> <p>10 sure.</p> <p>11 Q Okay. All right. Well, I'll just represent</p> <p>12 that this is the CDC's close out summary on the</p> <p>13 investigation into the Salmonella Newport outbreak in</p> <p>14 2020. I'm going to go through this line by line. If</p> <p>15 you want to read the first two sentences.</p> <p>16 MR. SALLANDER: Jenny, would you mind</p> <p>17 saying what the Bates number is since you've covered it</p> <p>18 up?</p> <p>19 MS. SCHELL: Oh. You got me. I can.</p> <p>20 Yes. I can. I think I can figure that out relatively</p> <p>21 quickly. Okay. It is Willis 5055.</p> <p>22 MR. SALLANDER: Thank you.</p> <p>23 BY MS. SCHELL:</p> <p>24 Q Go ahead, Mr. Thomson.</p> <p>25 A You want me to read the highlighted portion or</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 105</p>

FDA Discussion Points from Thomson International Inspection  
Provided Orally by Commander Cindy White, FDA Compliance Officer

Discussion Items

1. 21 CFR § 112.128(b). You did not take adequate measures to exclude pests from your fully-enclosed buildings. Specifically, on August 3, 2020, CSO JW observed two cats in the north plant where onion packing occurs. On August 4, 2020, CSO JW observed one cat in the north plant near the net clipper bagging line used for packing onions. On August 4, 2020, CSO JW observed three pigeons in the north plant above your main onion packing line. On August 11, 2020, CSOs observed two pigeons on the support beams near the ceiling above the main packing line in the north plant.
2. 21 CFR § 112.128(a). You did not take necessary measures to protect against contamination by pests in buildings. Specifically, on August 4, 2020, CSO JW observed apparent bird droppings on the onion cull line adjacent to the #10 conveyor inside the north plant's main packing line and apparent bird droppings on the surrounding surface of the onion loading hopper, a food contact surface, in the partially enclosed Compac onion packing line. On August 11, 2020, CSOs observed apparent bird droppings on a metal chute at the end of a conveyor on the main packing line in the north plant. This chute is a direct food contact surface. Apparent bird droppings were also observed on a metal beam on the main packing line adjacent to this chute.
3. 21 CFR § 112.123(d)(1). You did not inspect, maintain, clean and sanitize food contact surfaces as frequently as necessary to protect against the contamination of produce. Specifically, plastic bristled brush rollers on the north plant packing line were observed to have a thick buildup of dirt and soil that directly contacts onions. Onions pass through these bristled brush rollers after they are conveyed from the hopper immediately before the culling/sorting line. This buildup was not removed though TII's last regular cleaning/sanitizing activities occurred on August 3, 2020. *No f Openly*
4. 21 CFR § 112.123(b)(1). You did not install and maintain equipment to facilitate cleaning of the equipment and adjacent area. Specifically, plastic bristled brush rollers on the north plant packing line were observed in disrepair. The rollers are used to remove soil from onions after being loaded onto the line from the hopper before the sorting line. The bristles on the brush rollers showed substantial degradation with a thick buildup of dirt and soil. Some plastic bristled brush rollers had degraded to the point where the bristles on the rollers had worn down completely and only the base plastic remained. Additionally, the vinyl-like padding on the north plant hopper was observed peeling off the lip of the hopper with significant soil and dirt buildup trapped underneath. Rough dirty weld points were observed at the output of the north plant hopper. The vinyl-like padding near the output end of the north plant main line culling/sorting line was observed to have been installed in a manner that collects significant dirt and soil.
5. 21 CFR § 112.140(b). You did not establish and keep documentation of the date and method of cleaning and sanitizing of equipment. Specifically, you do not maintain any records of harvest container inspection or harvest container cleaning activities during this growing season, which occurred approximately October 2019 to July 2020 and you harvested approximately 450 acres of onions. Additionally, you do not maintain any records of harvest equipment inspection or harvest inspection cleaning activities for two



cultivators and three undercutters stored at TII's farm shop used during your 2019-2020 growing season.

6. 21 CFR § 112.128(c). You did not take adequate measures to prevent pests from becoming established in your partially-enclosed buildings. Specifically, during the inspection we observed apparent swallow nests along the top corner of the northwest mesh wall approximately 5 feet from the partially enclosed compact packing line which you use to pack onions.
7. 21 CFR § 112.22(b). You did not provide training to persons who conduct harvest activities that includes inspecting harvest containers and equipment so they are not a source of contamination and correcting or reporting problems with harvest containers or equipment. Specifically, we reviewed your employee training records for your 2020 harvest records for your 2020 harvest season and they did not include training on inspecting harvest containers and equipment.
8. Thomson International has two separate, and apparently unrelated, cleaning and sanitation SOPs that apply to their packing line. One drafted by JJ Harvesting and one drafted by Thomson International. TII's "master sanitation SOP-TII0008" states that cleaning frequency for their packing line is daily, weekly, prior to season startup, and at the end of the season. The daily and weekly cleaning procedure written in instruction format indicated the following steps: Equipment must be free of raw material/packing material/finished goods; Removal of debris; Sweeping; Rinsing with hose; Scrubbing with soap (Dawn); Rinsing with hose; Visual inspection of equipment; Clean/rinse floor drains; And lastly allow to dry. Within this same SOP, the "weekly sanitizing procedure (written in instruction format)" the same steps in the daily and weekly cleaning procedure should be followed but in addition sanitizer should be applied after the equipment is cleaned. TII generates a "daily production cleaning log" and a "weekly sanitation log" that documents daily cleaning and weekly sanitization activities take place. However, we were told by Jack Thomson and Nancy Anspach that the daily cleaning of the packing line is not a wet clean and no water or other liquid is used daily. An additional sanitation SOP titled "SSOP Standard Operating Procedure #8 (to clean onion machine)" drafted by JJ Harvesting was also provided by TII management. Mr. Thomson initially stated "SSOP Standard Operating Procedure #8" was the SOP followed for cleaning activities at TII's packing facility and that JJ Harvesting's procedures supersede any internal TII procedures. "SSOP Standard Operating Procedure #8" includes the following steps: Pressure washing, foam soap cleaner, scrubbing, and sanitizing with chlorinated water and left to dry (100-200 ppm, 6.5 – 7.5 pm) with a daily frequency of after harvest. The corresponding "JJ Harvesting Machine Cleaning and Sanitizing Log" documents indicate that these cleaning procedures are followed daily documented a wet clean. TII's management stated the JJ Harvesting machine cleaning and sanitizing logs were inaccurate and a wet clean does not happen daily.
9. JJ Harvesting provided TII with records documenting the cleaning of toilets used by JJ's harvest crews while on TII fields. The records do not include a method of cleaning.
10. A tail water pond was used as a source for irrigation water on onions growing on Gladstone east in the middle to end March 2020 after a major rain event. Mr. Thomson was not able to provide an exact date for the event. Mr. Thomson clarified that using the water from the tail water pond on Gladstone east to irrigate onions is not normal practice

*very close for field pack*

and has never happened before. He explained that the heavy rain threatened to overflow the tailwater pond so in order to keep the tailwater pond from overflowing the water was pumped into TII's adjacent onion field.

11. Agricultural water is sometimes tested for the presence or absence of total coliforms and E. coli and sometimes quantified as "greater than 23" or "less than 1.1." Mr. Thomson was unable to provide rationale as to why TII is not having these results quantified. He was also unable to provide critical limits, actionable limits, or corrective actions as they would pertain to the results TII receives.
12. While reviewing TII's "well head inspection checklist" we observed 6 post-dated (10/23 – 24/2020) and requested copies of all well head inspection checklist forms from 2019 to present. The copies and originals did not include the six post-dated documents.

#### Management's Response to the Discussion Items

TII President Jack Thomson made no objection to these discussion items, promised corrections, and stated that he will respond in writing to FDA compliance with more details.